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PALMER

Town Planner discusses grants, ongoing projects

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – At this week’s Town Council meeting, the Town Planner made a presentation on the department’s ongoing projects and pending grants.

The Monday, July 13 meeting began with Council President Barbara Barry welcoming incoming members Jan McCoy and Ryan Gauthier to the council, and congratulating Phil Hebert on his re-election. The council then appointed Jennifer Jerome to the Housing Authority, with a term to end June 30, 2029.

The meeting involved a presentation from Town Planner Heidi Mannarino and Conservation Agent Jessica Ladin on the work done by the Planning Department to oversee land use and zoning in the town. Mannarino said that the department is made up of herself, the Town Planner and Administrative Assistant Maxwell Ballou, and that it works with the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals, each made up of five elected members.

Mannarino provided an overview of the work the departments have done over the previous year. The Planning Board approved 12 Subdivision Approval Not Required plans, eight Site Plan Approvals with four minor amendments to SPA, which included four earth removal permits, 11 special permits, and eight large-scale stormwater permits. The ZBA saw three variances for findings, and one administrative appeal, which Mannarino noted is more than in recent years.

Mannarino then went on to describe projects to note for the previous year, including the expansion of the Healthcare Center, which also involves collaboration from the Conserva-

tion Commission.

“They’ll have about 76 beds total with their new addition,” Mannarino said. “It lines up pretty well with some planned sewer infrastructure improvements over there.”

Other projects Mannarino mentioned included a 10-building self-service storage facility approved at Chamber Road, the redevelopment of a former bank to a retail liquor store on Park Street, the construction of a new commercial building at 1524 Park St., earth removal operations that were renewed for a three-year term, and the redevelopment of the former Thorndike Grammar School, which is being converted into 14 apartment units at 4023 Main St.

Mannarino then described zoning amendments and regulatory updates that were being discussed by the council, including the proposed updates to the Table of Use.

“The Planning Department worked closely with the Pioneer Valley Planning Council throughout 2025 to try and put all of our use tables into one large table,” Mannarino said. “This has been an issue before, because we have exclusionary zoning in Palmer, so if it’s not listed on the table, it’s not allowed.

“There were some differences in interpretation with having separate tables,” Mannarino continued. “I think having one monolithic table will be a little more user-friendly.”

Mannarino said that there will be clarifications of uses and definitions, as well as new uses included. The department is also working with PVPC on updating subdivision rules and regulations, which have not been updated since 2003.

“Some of the appendices are still even hand-drawn,” Mannarino said.

PLANNER | page 5



Matt Lemieux and Peg Matthew welcome Frances Griffin to the annual summer Artisan Market.

Chamber of Commerce puts on ANNUAL SUMMER MARKET

By Marcelo Gusmão
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THREE RIVERS – This weekend, the town celebrated an exciting afternoon of games, music, food, and community with the annual summer Artisan Market.

On Friday, July 10, food trucks, farmers, and artisans were invited to Hryniewicz Park from 3-8 p.m. for a summer market sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Between free admission, live music, 40 unique artisan vendors, and even a clown, the

event provided fun for the whole community.

“We put this on for the local community and for the families to come out and enjoy a nice night with music,” said Vicky Baldyga, Board Member and Treasurer of the Chamber. “It’s just a nice night for families to come by and walk around and hear the music, and it’s free of charge, of course.”

The Chamber has been putting on these markets for years, starting after the COVID-19 pandemic and regularly holding them in town.

“Last year we had it at

the Church of Divine Mercy because they were doing work around the Common,” Baldyga said. “We like to have it in Three Rivers, as there are a lot of families around there who like to come.”

The Chamber’s Vice President, Carol Seaver, is the Chair of the event, and was in charge of booking the band, soliciting crafters, and securing permits. One particular hurdle was finding out on short notice that the town had changed its law on the sale of beer.

“It used to be that the beer guy was able to just sell,”

Seaver explained. “Now, they wanted a Beer Garden that was specifically set up.”

A highlight of the market was a live performance from the gazebo by The Willies, who were described by organizers as “excellent.”

“They even came out into the audience,” Seaver recounted. “One of the guitarists was actually in the audience with the people, playing his guitar as he’s walking around. There was a lot of involvement in that aspect.”

Ahead of the market,

MARKET | page 14

ELECTION

The race is on for U.S. Senate

Rep. Seth Moulton challenges Sen. Ed Markey

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The race for the Senate is on, and last Wednesday, July 8, 79-year-old incumbent Sen. Ed Markey (D) took the stage in the first televised debate against

challenger 47-year-old Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), right here in Western Mass.

This was the 1st official debate between the candidates, as the state primary election fast approaches, on Sept. 1, with early voting beginning on Aug. 22.

The debate was included panelist from multiple local media outlets.

Markey, the incumbent, is seeking another six-year

term. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and has served in the Senate since 2013. If victorious, Markey confessed this would be his last year running for re-election.

“I need one more term to finish the agenda, this progressive agenda,” Markey stated. “And then I will step down. But we need

RACE | page 8

MONSON

Select Board speaks with highway and school depts.

By Marcelo Gusmão
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MONSON – During its meeting on Tuesday, July 14, the board was advised on upcoming highway construction and community events and received a request regarding the Municipal Financial Sustainability Task Force.

Highway Surveyor Ben Murphy advised the public that next Monday, the town will be putting rubberized chip seals on 4,500 feet of Bumstead Road from Route 32 and lower Mayhill Road. Murphy explained that this method had previously been used on Bogan Road and Robbins Road.

“It’s melted tires, but they take the metal out and all the carbon, so it’s actually a green way of doing things now,” Murphy said. “It will lay out about an inch of the rubber, and then you put stone onto it and it all cools down in less than 15 minutes and you can travel on it.”

Murphy provided further facts about the process. Approximately 1,400 tires are being used for the square yardage of the area, and each tire weighs approximately 10

BOARD | page 7

PALMER

Town reminisces on Bicentennial Parade during Library Watch Party



By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – This weekend, the library hosted a watch party for the video of the town’s Bicentennial Parade.

After the video of the 1976 Parade was shown during the watch party on June 20, members of the community expressed to library staff that they didn’t get to see enough of it, and so the library arranged a second watch party for the video, which was held this past Saturday, July 11.

Librarian Helene O’Connor said that the three-hour parade was cut down to an hour of video highlights by the library’s intern, Matthew Fontaine.

“People loved watching

Seated left to right Mary Thompson (volunteer), Amy Golenski (librarian.) Standing left to right Matt Fontaine (intern), Helene O'Connor (librarian), Layne Holcomb (intern), volunteers: Chapel Hewes, Tanner Kirk, Trevor Smola hosted the watch party.

PARADE | page 14



Baystate Wing Hospital among the most socially responsible in the nation

PALMER – Baystate Wing Hospital has been named one of the most socially responsible hospitals in the nation, earning an Honor Roll spot on the 2026 Lown Hospitals Index. Ranked No. 21 nationally and No. 1 in Massachusetts, Baystate Wing, is one of only 160 out of more than 3,600 U.S. hospitals achieved this status by earning top grades across measures of health equity, value, and outcomes.

The Lown Hospitals Index for Social Responsibility is the only national ranking that examines how equitably care is delivered, how well hospitals invest in their communities, and whether patients receive high-value care that avoids unnecessary procedures, in addition to tra-

ditional measures like clinical outcomes and patient safety. More than 50 metrics contribute to a hospital's overall score.

This marks the fifth consecutive year Baystate Wing Hospital has been recognized on the Lown Hospitals Index Honor Roll, reflecting its sustained commitment to delivering equitable, high-value care while improving the health of the communities it serves.

"This recognition highlights the dedication of our team, who work each day to fulfill our mission of delivering compassionate, quality, and accessible care while advancing the health of our communities for all," said Karli Barrett, President and Chief Operating Officer of Baystate Wing Hospital. "As

we advance toward becoming a High Reliability Organization, we are building a culture where safety, equity, quality, and continuous improvement guide every decision. Being named among the nation's most socially responsible hospitals affirms our commitment to exceptional care, better health outcomes, and ensuring every patient receives the support they need to thrive."

"Honor Roll status is earned by hospitals meeting the highest standards across the breadth of our metrics," said Vikas Saini, MD, president of the Lown Institute. "They aren't just clinically excellent, they're deeply committed to the communities they serve and work hard to ensure all patients get the care they need."

Kids ON TRACK at Union Station held on Aug. 1, 2

REGION – On August 1 & 2, the Amherst Railway Society, CTrail, and Springfield Union Station are jointly sponsoring Kids ON TRACK at Union Station in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Area model railroad clubs will have operating model railroads set up in the Union Station concourse, and children (of all ages) will have a chance to run trains. Model railroads are fascinating to watch. But, the real thrill is getting a chance to run your own train. And, that's what Kids ON TRACK is all about.

CTrail is offering \$5 round-trip train rides between Springfield and Hartford both mornings, August 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. And, Maggie the Rail-

road Clown will be at the event performing magic tricks, juggling, and creating balloon wizardry. Maggie is a graduate of the prestigious Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. She spent four years traveling with the Greatest Show On Earth.

Kids ON TRACK is a national effort by the model railroad industry to encourage young modelers, and link model railroading to STEM education.

There is no charge for this event and the Union Station parking garage, located on Main Street, will be offering a special \$2 event parking fee.

For more on Kids ON TRACK, visit: amherstrail.org/kids-on-track/.

Annual Water quality report available

MONSON – The 2025 annual water quality consumer confidence report for Monson are available at <https://www.monson-ma.gov/622/Water-Quality-Report-CCR-Index>.

Hard copies are available at Monson Town Hall located at 110 Main Street, Monson Free Library located at 2 High Street, and Monson Senior Center located at 106 Main Street in Monson, Mass.

Please call 413-267-4130 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Hitchcock's Summer Concert Series rocks Brimfield Town Common

BRIMFIELD – The Hitchcock Summer Concert Series sponsored by Country Bank will take place on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. now through Aug. 19 on the Brimfield Town Common. In the case of rain, concerts will move to Thursday. A food truck will be on site at each event. Picnics are also welcome; chairs and blankets are encouraged.

After a weeklong hiatus for July's Brimfield Flea Market, The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra returns on July 22. Con-

ducted by Sam Falcetti, the nation's first digital accordion orchestra features about 20 musicians from across New England. Using state-of-the-art Roland digital accordions, the group replicates the sounds of various instruments like flutes, trumpets, and a rhythm section to showcase an impressive range of genres including Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country, and Rock. BT's Smokehouse will return on this evening.

July 29 is all about polka with the return of The

Eddie Forman Orchestra, also known as "E.F.O.", is a western Massachusetts polka band that has been performing before audiences since 1968. Eddie Forman started the band while he was still in high school, and has been creating and recreating music ever since, garnering one of the largest polka followings in the New England area. Off The Hook will be the evening's featured food truck.

Aug. 5 brings the Brimfield debut of The Willies - a popular, community-focused classic rock and Americana

band based out of Belchertown. The band performs across the Western Mass region, playing high-energy hits from the 1950s through the 1980s, modern country, and rock standards. Flippin' the Bird BBQ returns for this concert.

Long-time series favorite CobbleStone Road of Connecticut returns on Aug. 12 with high-energy country. Well-known throughout the region for playing modern and classic country hits from the 1990s to today, their energetic style mixes classic

country with rock and blues. Smashing Patties will have their concert series debut this evening.

The series closes out on Aug. 19 with Hard Knox, a Westfield-based party rock and cover band known for their high-energy shows and "forgotten classics" setlist. Instead of regular cover tunes, they play unique, underappreciated gems from the '70s and '80s, making them a fixture in the Western Mass and Northern Connecticut music scenes. BT's Smokehouse will return to bookend

this year's food truck lineup. In addition to Presenting Sponsor Country Bank, this program is supported in part by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

For more information, visit www.hitchcock-academy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Annual Mary Farm picnic set for Aug. 2

PALMER – The Apostolate of the Suffering invites the community to its Annual Mary Farm Picnic on Sunday, August 2, from 12:30 to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at Mary Farm, 1915 Ware Street, Palmer.

Enjoy a delicious lunch featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes, and homemade desserts. Admission is just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10, with tickets available at the door.

Be sure to visit Memorial Hall, the beautifully renovated barn, where you'll find raffle baskets and the Mary Farm Gift Shop. Memorial Hall is accessible, and restrooms are available for your convenience.

Proceeds benefit the mission and ministries of the Apostolate of the Suffering at Mary Farm.

Mary Farm looks forward to welcoming you for an afternoon of good food and fellowship.



Friday, Movie Matinee
at 12:30 p.m.
with drinks and popcorn

July 17 - "One Life" – The incredible true story of Nickholas "Nicky" Winton, a young London broker who helps rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in a race against time before Nazi occupation closes the borders on the verge of World War II. Fifty years later Nicky is haunted by the fate of those

Palmer Senior Center

he wasn't able to bring to safety

July 24 - "Song Sung Blue" tells the true story of Milwaukee couple Mike and Claire Sardina, who find love, purpose, and second chances by forming Neil Diamond tribute act Lightning & Thunder.

July 31 - "Between the Temples" - A grief-stricken cantor in crisis of faith finds his world turned upside down when his grade school music teacher re-enters his life as his new adult Bat Mitzvah student. The two forlorn souls develop a special connection

in this unorthodox comedy from Nathan Silver.

Monday Evening Programs 4:30 p.m.

July 20 - Pour Painting
July 27 - Sunflower
Bucket w/Kim cost is \$5

Activities

July 20 - *New program Chair Volleyball. Come join the fun. Mondays at 10 a.m.

July 20 - QVCDC/Baystate Connect Informational - Come learn transportation options for doctor appts. and getting around locally.

July 29 - Fairy Lantern w/lights w/Kim. Cost \$5.

Sample at center.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 1 - Cosmic Baseball Game at Polar Park in Worcester. Tickets limited, cost is \$40 prepaid, no refunds. Includes transportation.

Sept. 11 - Annual Picnic at Pulaski Park, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Entertainment by The Gemstones, meal by Tony and Penny Catering. Enjoy tasty food, good friends, and great entertainment. Cost \$15 due when you sign up.

Please Sign up for all Programs by calling 413-283-2670 Ext. 3.

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.

Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:
Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books.
We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Keep Museum celebrates the nation Aug. 2

MONSON – As a part of our programming to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, the Keep Homestead Museum will welcome consulting historian Dennis Picard on Sunday, Aug. 2 as he presents his lecture "Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Western Massachusetts."

Even though there were no battles in Western Mass. during the American Revolution, there were Hessian sol-

diers here. Folklore says that these soldiers were mercenaries purchased by King George to fight the rebellious colonies. Hear how these men got to our area, why they were here, who they really were, and why some remained in our regions.

Dennis Picard of Westfield is a living history interpreter who has held key leadership roles at several historic sites including Sturbridge Village and Storowton Village Museum. He continues to ed-

ucate the public about history doing reenactments, lectures, and craft demonstrations.

The program starts at 1:30 p.m. in the barn and is open to the public free of charge though donations are welcome. Visitors are welcome to tour the museum from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to view new patriotic button displays and enjoy refreshments.

For more information about the museum visit www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org

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DEADLINE

The Journal Register deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition space permitting, email Editor at journalregister@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

CORRECTIONS The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

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School supplies needed

Staff Report

Last Wednesday, the first placed collection box at Monson Savings Bank branch in Ware kicked off the start of the school supply collection drive sponsored by the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce and the Ware Business & Civic and Beyond organizations.

This year's school supply drive marks the second year of the collection drive program. Participating locations will serve as a drop off destination for local citizens to donate school supplies to benefit students from the Ware, Palmer and Monson schools districts.

"We started this collection drive last year on the suggestion of Barbara Barry, Town of Palmer Town Council Chairperson, to support the students of the Palmer schools. I thought we could partner with the WBCA&B and have that organization support both the Palmer and the Ware schools systems and its students with their own collection locations," said Matt Lemieux, Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce President.

The collection drive expanded from the towns of Ware and Palmer to include locations in Monson. WBCA&B President Dan Flynn organized several locations in



Kate Blackwell, Assistant Branch Manager of Monson Savings Bank in Ware, presents the school supply collection location.

Monson to serve as collection locations.

"Last year, at the conclusion of the drive, town coordinators brought truckloads of supplies to their respective schools. Our common goal this year is to collect even more supplies," said Flynn.

Monson Together came on board this year to coordi-

nate the Monson locations.

"Each of the three towns have more locations this year than last year, and we are very excited" said Diane Vadnais, Palmer coordinator.

"Heading up the Palmer side is an opportunity to make sure local students start the school feeling prepared, confident, and supported. It is

amazing that having the right supplies can make a huge difference in a child's self esteem and success. Sometimes it helps them feel like they fit in because they have what all the other students have" said Vadnais.

The school supply collection drive runs through Friday, Aug. 21.



Displayed is the collection spot at Palmer Public Library for school supplies drop off. See page 8 for ad with supply list.

Participating drop off locations are found at Cedarbrook Village, Cluett's Appliance Center, Dhilon Dentistry, Hakim Medical Center, Hanna's on Main, Monson Savings Bank, Moulton Insurance Agency, Ware Town Hall and Westfield Savings Bank

in Ware, Monson Savings Bank, The Better Bean and TJ's Tavern in Monson, and Palmer Town Hall, Palmer Senior Center, Palmer Library, J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Phriends Coffee, Mustang Seats and Nick's Sporting Goods in Palmer.

PHS Class of '76 plans August reunion

PALMER – Do you have the Spirit of '76? With the 50th anniversary of Palmer High School's Class of 1976 this year, a reunion of classmates and faculty at the end of the summer has been planned for Aug. 28 at Salem Cross Inn, 260 W. Main St., West Brookfield. It will be a summer option for

those unavailable in the fall, when a separate Class of '76 group is planning a reunion on Oct. 17.

The event at Salem Cross will begin with cocktails at 5 p.m., and dinner will start at 6 p.m., offering a menu of cheese and crackers, garden salad, and entrees of Rustic Chicken, Honey Dijon Salm-

on or Vegetarian Option. Tickets for the summer event will be \$50, which will include a tip.

For the Aug. 28 registration link, which includes payment options online and by post, contact Suzanne Strempek Shea at sess7@comcast.net. RSVP and payment are due no later than Aug. 10.

PHS '76 fall reunion set for Oct. 17

PALMER – The Palmer High School Reunion Committee invites the 1976 graduates of PHS AND the 1976 graduates of Pathfinder Regional High School to a 50th Anniversary Reunion Party on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 from 5 to 10 p.m.

Faculty is also welcome.

Graduates and guests are invited to eat, drink and be reunited in the outdoor venue at Vanished Valley Brewing Co., 782 Center Street, Ludlow. The cost is \$35 per person, includes entertainment – Kingdom

of Jones Band – and a BBQ style buffet with cornbread, salad, BBQ ribs, BBQ chicken, pulled pork, mac n' cheese, rice and beans and coleslaw.

Save the date. Spread the word. R.S.V.P. and methods of payment information to be provided soon.

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's Feline Fun Day Aug. 1

BRIMFIELD – Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) invites cat lovers of all ages to its annual Feline Fun Day on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the Brimfield Winery. This free, family-friendly event brings the community together for an afternoon of fun while raising funds to support shelter cats and HTAT's community programs.

Visitors can browse local craft vendors, enjoy delicious food, sip wine from the winery's own selection, listen to music, and try their luck at exciting raffles throughout the day. Guests will also have the chance to enjoy kitten cuddling with some of HTAT's youngest residents. While the kittens won't be available for adoption at the event, they're sure to bring plenty of smiles. Whether you're spending the day with family, meeting friends, or simply celebrating your love of cats, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Every dollar raised by HTAT during Feline Fun Day helps provide care for shelter cats while supporting programs that keep pets with the families who love them. Through services like low-cost spay and neuter, a pet food pantry, and other community assistance programs,

HTAT works to ensure that cats and their owners have access to the support they need. As more families face financial challenges each year, the organization remains committed to being a trusted resource for pets.

HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max says Feline Fun Day is about more than just a fun afternoon; it's about bringing the community together for a shared cause.

"Every person who attends, shops with a vendor, or purchases a raffle ticket helps make a difference for cats both inside and outside our shelter," said Max. "It's a wonderful opportunity to have fun while supporting programs that strengthen our entire community."

Feline Fun Day will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at Brimfield Winery, 35 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.heretodaysanctuary.org or call 413-324-8224.

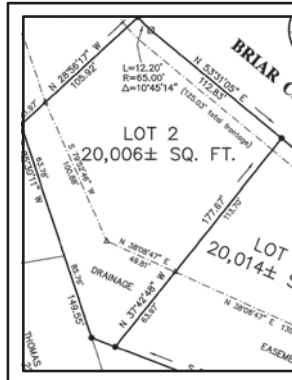
About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn

and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on helping cats and the people who love them in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield, MA. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized

there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. We believe that pets are cherished members of the family and that every cat deserves care, respect, and the chance to thrive, no matter their circumstances. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps over 1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at facebook.com/heretoday-sanctuary, and follow us on Instagram at [@heretoday-adoptedtomorrow](https://instagram.com/heretoday-adoptedtomorrow).



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CAMPUS NOTES

Peritz named to Salve Regina University's 2026 Dean's List

NEWPORT, RI – Morgan Peritz of Bondsville was named to the Dean's List during the spring 2026 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Rayleonard named to Dean's List at Bates College

LEWISTON, ME – Delaney Rayleonard of Palmer, Mass., was named to the Dean's List at Bates College for the Winter semester ending in May 2026. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.92 or higher. Rayleonard is still considering a major at Bates.

FOR RENT

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PALMER'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 4th 6-8pm
Palmer Police Department
Front Parking Lot
~ Rain or Shine ~

A FUN, FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES!
This community-building evening is all about fostering positive relationships and unity throughout the town. Enjoy an evening of connection, safety awareness, and family-friendly fun. We hope to see you there!

POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Should I claim spouse benefits now, or my own Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to get advice on the optimal time to sign up for Social Security benefits.

I am a 64-year-old female and my birthdate is August 1961. My husband is already taking his SS benefits, so I have also wondered if it be advisable to take spousal benefits or full benefits.

Signed: Wondering Spouse

Dear Wondering:

If you take your Social Security benefits at age 64, they will be permanently reduced.

And, for information, you cannot take only your spousal benefit; you must take your own SS retirement benefit whenever you claim and, if you are entitled to more as your husband's spouse, you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your monthly payment up to what you are entitled to as a spouse.

If you claim at any time before your SS Full Retirement Age of 67, both your own SS retirement amount and your spousal boost amount will be actuarially reduced for claiming early.

All of which means that claiming before your FRA (e.g., at 64) will mean your monthly benefit will be less than 50% of your husband's monthly FRA amount.

Now, for clarity, it's important to know how spouse benefits are calculated: if your FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will get a "spousal boost" added to your own SS retirement amount.

Note that FRA amounts are always used to calculate spousal amounts, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed. If your husband waited until age 70 to get a higher monthly benefit or even if he claimed before his FRA, your spousal amount would still be based on his FRA entitlement. If your FRA benefit is less than half of his FRA entitlement, you will get a spousal boost. If not, you won't.

Assuming you will be entitled to a "spousal boost," the decision you must make is whether to claim early (e.g., now at 64) or wait until you are 67 to get your maximum amount as your husband's spouse. The factors to con-

sider are these:

Are you still working? If so, claiming before FRA means you will be subject to an annual earnings limit until you reach FRA. The earnings limit for early filers in 2026 is \$24,480 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (the limit increases a bit yearly).

If you substantially exceed the earnings limit by working, you may even be temporarily ineligible for SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or stop working full time.

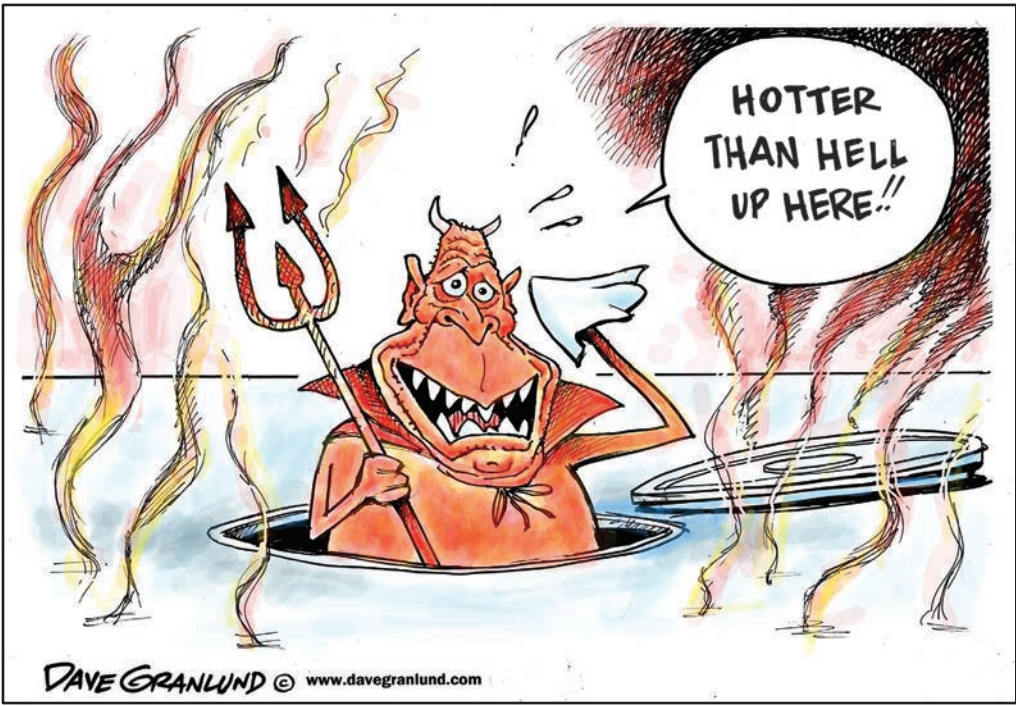
Do you expect your husband to predecease you? If so, then your benefit as a widow will be 100% of the larger amount he is collecting when he passes provided when that occurs you've reached your FRA and your own SS retirement is less.

Depending on timing, that may mean that taking a reduced spouse benefit now, which will be replaced by your larger widow benefit later, is a logical choice.

What is your own life expectancy? If you have health issues or have other reasons to believe you will not achieve "average" life expectancy average is about 87 for a woman your current age, then claiming your Social Security benefits early is likely a prudent choice.

So, as you can see, you must evaluate your personal circumstances to make this decision. Although we aren't able to say exactly when you should claim your SS benefits, I hope this provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Endless supply of flowers for the windowsill

I must admit that I feel unmotivated in the flower garden this summer. It took me forever to sow my seeds, and even longer to install the resulting plants.

The seedlings finally went into the ground a good two weeks after Memorial Day (gasp!) but they are making up for lost time despite my bad attitude! Just last week the first bouquet graced the kitchen windowsill.

In a few weeks I will have a collection of different vases filled with flowers in that very spot; it's something I look forward to doing every summer. But if I am going to have flowers to fill the vases, I have to keep up with maintenance.

It's not enough to sit back and watch them grow.

Here is some great advice worth repeating that will help to keep summer annuals looking their best.

Deadhead

Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.

You see, a plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. Once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed, seed that will grow future plants.

If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease and it will begin to decline.

By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include

the stem as well to keep the plant tidy. Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.

Shear them back to encourage new growth

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips. These plants require more drastic measures to bring back their youthful good looks.

Give them a good haircut. Simply look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point.

Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.

Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

Feed your plants

Occasionally, even plants that are well fertilized at planting time begin to have issues. If foliage is pale and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant.

Cultivate gently and water in.

You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks.

If going natural is your cup of tea, make some!

Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep

growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed. Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can.

Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.

Water, water, water

If Mother Nature fails to provide at least an inch of rain each week, then unfortunately we must make up the difference. It is so easy to forget to perform this very obvious maintenance task, especially when we are busy doing other things.

If we are negligent often enough, however, our plants will suffer.

Sometimes pale green foliage is a nitrogen deficiency from simply a lack of water. When you water the garden, remember to do so in the early morning, if possible, to avoid evaporation.

Early evening is another good option, but try to get the job done with enough time for the foliage to dry before darkness sets in.

Deep waterings twice a week are far better than numerous quick showers. The former will promote deep, penetrating roots and future drought tolerance.

Well-watered, well-fed and well-groomed annuals will reward you with beautiful bountiful blossoms for another two months or more – well worth the effort for vases of flowers on the windowsill!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Black and white warbler

My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler and as the name implies it has black and white feathers.

The black and white warbler is easy to spot and easy to recognize. Its former name was the black and white creeper. Like the white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches and the brown creeper, it

climbs about on the trunks and major limbs of trees seeking insects in the bark crevices. It often feeds low, and nests even lower, usually on the ground.

This warbler inhabits forests, woodlands, shrubs, Savannas, and thickets from Alaska and the north, California, eastern Canada, Florida, Great Lakes, mid Atlantic, New England, northwest, Plains, Rocky Mountains, southeast, southwest, Texas

and Western Canada.

Spring migration begins rather early and takes place mainly at night. Migration is spread over a lengthy period in both spring and fall.

The sexes are similar and are about 4.3 to 5.1 inches long. The black and white warbler feather pattern is stripes, white central crown stripe and black streaks on back and sides.

The adult male has black throat and cheeks and the fe-

male and young paler or whitish there.

Their song is a thin, high-pitched, monotonous "weezy-weezy-weezy-weezy" like a squeaky wheelbarrow. The call is a chirp or chirp.

The black and white warbler breeds in mature or second-growth forests, deciduous and mixed. Males arrive on breeding grounds in late April, before the females.

During courtship, a male chases female, with much singing and fluttering. The female lays five creamy white eggs flecked with brown in a cup shaped nest on the ground or less than than two feet above under dead leaves or limbs or against a shrub or tree. They are commonly parasitized by cowbirds.

Both parents feed the young and the young leave the nest in eight to 12 days after

hatching. The young are able to fly well.

Adapted to creeping along limbs and on tree trunks to feed, they forage on dormant insects from tree trunks and branches in early spring. They switch body from side to side at each hop while foraging. Sometimes, they fly out after insects in the air.

They eats primarily insects. It feeds on a wide variety of caterpillars including those of spongy moth, beetles including bark beetles, click beetles, and wood borers, ants, flies, bugs, leafhoppers, aphids and other insects, spiders and daddy longlegs.

Massachusetts Audubon sightings

Unusual bird sightings reported in late June to the Massachusetts Audubon So-

The Journal Register

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Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:

The Journal Register

Letter to the Editor

24 Water St.

Palmer MA 01069

or by e-mail to:

journalregister@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to journalregister@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in sentence form and as a Word doc or plain email text – no PDFs or flyers, please – to journalregister@turley.com.

UPCOMING

VENDORS FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

July Vendors
July 21 - Wicked Good Treats

WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

- Friday, July 17
• Wiggles & Wonder (Ages 0-3) - 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, July 21
• Tween & Teen Terrariums – 3 p.m.
Wednesday, July 22

- Plushie Sleepover
• Wales Tales Story Time - 12:15 p.m.
• Move with Fun and Games - 1:15 p.m.

- Friday, July 24
• Wiggles & Wonder (Ages 0-3) - 10:30 a.m.
Monday, July 27
• Rock Painting – 2 p.m.

- Wednesday, July 29
• Wales Tales Story Time - 12:15 p.m.

- Thursday, July 30
• Wildlife on Wheels by Forest Park Zoo – 1 p.m.
Friday, July 31
• Wiggles & Wonder (Ages 0-3) - 10:30 a.m.

AUGUST 1

Feline Fun Day returns to Brimfield Winery: A Day of Cats, Crafts, Music, and Community Fun. Looking for a fun summer outing? Feline Fun Day returns on Saturday, August 1, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Brimfield Winery, and everyone is invited. Hosted by Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT), a cage-free cat shelter based in Brimfield, Feline Fun Day is a celebration of cats and community with something for all ages. What to expect: Visit friendly shelter kittens (not available for adoption at the event); Local craft and artisan vendors; Live music throughout the day; Wine and beer in a relaxed outdoor setting; Raffles with fun prizes. All proceeds support HTAT’s work keeping cats safe, healthy, and supported in our community. Bring your friends, bring your family, and enjoy a relaxed summer day of shopping, music, and feline fun. Learn more at heretodaysanctuary.org.

PLANNER | from page 1

“This is in great need of an update, so we’re really excited to be working with them.”

Council Member Matt Lemieux took the opportunity to ask Mannarino about the town’s preparation for data centers.

“Data centers have been in the news in a lot of other communities around us,” Lemieux said. “What are we doing to be one step ahead when a company approaches Palmer?”

Mannarino said that, due to the town’s exclusionary zoning policy, because data centers are not explicitly allowed in the table of use, that it would be easy to prevent.

“My interpretation of that would be, unless the town puts that as an allowable use on our table, then it would be prohibited,” Mannarino said.

This prompted a discussion on the council’s opinions, with Lemieux mentioning that a data center could provide tax revenue for the town. Councilor Phil Hebert, however, took a stance against bringing data centers into the community.

“AI, number one, in my opinion, is evil. It’s taking too much control over people’s lives,” Hebert said. “You’re ruining your resources, so what’s the price you want to put on ruining your resources?”

Town Manager Brad Brothers said that the issue could be reviewed once the technology has been figured out at other sites, but that it’s not an allowable use under the current regulations.

“What’s really the big negative on it is the infrastructure cost for the power to get

there,” Brothers said, adding that in a couple years, the technology might be figured out.

Mannarino listed grants that the department has applied for and is working on, including the design for the Thorndike and Shearer Street sewer improvements.

“That design is now complete,” Mannarino said. “We also submitted a grant this year for \$5 million through the Mass Works Program for the construction of the sewer improvements, which would also include a pump station.

Mannarino then described the ongoing design and engineering for culvert replacements at Bacon and West Ware Road.

“The second phase for final design and permitting was just completed at the end of this fiscal year,” Mannarino said. “That award was for \$88,000, so now, with permits in hand, we’re ready to move towards the construction phase for those projects.”

Further grants included the DLTA grants with PVPC and the culvert replacement project for Route 181, which the Conservation Department applied for several grants for years ago, but, due to factors relating to COVID, the cost to construct was much higher than the award amount and the project wasn’t completed at the time.

“We were just awarded over \$700,000 for the construction of this culvert so that it meets stream crossing standards and also reduces potential flooding impacts in that area,” Mannarino said.

Mannarino said that the heat pump replacement project at the Wastewater Treat-

ment Plant will be closing out soon, and the department is still working on the Mass Central Rail Trail feasibility study to look at potential obstacles along the route.

ment Plant will be closing out soon, and the department is still working on the Mass Central Rail Trail feasibility study to look at potential obstacles along the route.

ONGOING

WALES CHURCH FARMER’S MARKET - Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. We will be open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning on Memorial Day weekend and running throughout the summer until Labor Day weekend. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables when in season. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: trulytorie2000@gmail.com for more info and to register.

THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check brimfieldwinery.com for any variations.

CRAFTERNOONS: Drop in 2 to 4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road to learn or practice different crafts. There are new crafts every Wednesday. For more information, call 413-245-3607.

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E “Best In Show” winners. Dues are \$55 a year. Follow them on Facebook for more.

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose’s line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and participants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

Council to discuss if we want to extend that.”

Finally, Mannarino mentioned a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant that was submitted to assess areas that are vulnerable to flooding in town. Lemieux asked if the Hazard Mitigation Plan already identifies those areas, and Council Vice President Jessica Ferry forwarded the most recent version of the plan from 2023 so that Mannarino could look it over.

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday at the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St. Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Monday. The center is located on Rt 116, at the center of the Holyoke Range State Park. DCR Interpretive staff will be available for visitors. Coming in January, programs will also be offered to highlight the Range’s special nature in winter, see the park web site for details.

QI GONG: Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson. Every Tuesday from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.



POETRY CORNER

Strawberry Lane

The springtime beckoned at our doorside,
To lightly say where the berries were;
Soon down from the nail a basket we took,
And set off to find out where.

Through the neighbor’s stonefast field we went,
And laughed with the barking dogs – then paused
By the pond where contestants gathered,
In the annual race of the frogs.

Cajuggering, juggering marked their stations,
And the cantering into the bog –
Soon the winner swelled as pride will do,
In an elevated place upon a log.

We left them to their splashing rituals,
On another errand we were bent;
For up ahead was Strawberry Lane,
And followed along to where it went.

You were standing five years old that Spring,
And nearer far to the ground - than I
Whose winters were beginning to show
On the day when the berries were found.

Leafy hats with brims of lace, concealed
Humble clusters - fancied in red, –
But blue, blue eyes could see them all
And placed some into the basket’s bed;

And carried sleepily back across the time
Where the children will come each day.
Whose elders only visitors are,
However long the wish to stay.

Too soon, tendrilled clouds reappeared
And took the sun to where it went down,
And we listened, listened where it might land,
But heard only the nearer sound. –

O’r I wish, I wish to go once more,
With you down Strawberry Lane
And there to kneel before your heart,
When we go there once again.

– Charles Barnes



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BIRDS | from page 4

ciety included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Harwich and a Franklin’s gull and two royal terns in Provincetown.

Central Massachusetts sightings in the Ware River watershed included: a great blue heron, belted kingfisher, yellow-bellied sapsucker, two northern flickers, two eastern wood pewees, two alder flycatchers, two least flycatchers, three eastern Phoebees,

four great crested flycatchers and two eastern kingbirds, a yellow-throated vireo, a blue-headed vireo, six warbling vireos, 110 red-eyed vireos, a common raven, two red-breasted nuthatches, two house wrens an eastern bluebird, 43 veery, a hermit thrush, a wood thrush, 34 gray catbirds and four cedar waxwings.

Also reported were a blue-winged warbler, four yellow warblers, seven chestnut sided warblers, three black-throated warblers, three green war-

blers, a Blackburnian warbler, seven pine warbles, on prairie warbler, three black and white warblers; two redstarts, 56 ovenbirds, 28 yellow-throated warblers, a Canada warbler, nine scarlet tanagers, six eastern towhees, a field sparrow, three swamp sparrow, a rose-breasted grosbeak, four indigo buntings, two bobolinks and three red crossbills.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

Business

Figlio restaraunt celebrates 4th anniversary

Last Sunday, Bobby D’Agostino and his staff at Figlio celebrated their four year anniversary.

“We opened four years ago with a purpose of love of food and service” said D’Agostino. “My daughters and granddaughter help me serve my customers with a traditional Italian cuisine and more.”

“When I was looking to open a restaurant, I fell in-love with this location given its old world look. We even use the bar which has been here for years” said D’Agostino.

Figlios is located at 1366 Main Street in Palmer as is open Wednesday and Thursday 11:30 am to 7 pm, Friday and Saturday 11:30 am to 9 pm and Sundays 12 pm to 5 pm.



Figlio owner and chef, Bobby D’Agostino and Kristin Trauschke, host the anniversary gathering.



Kristin Traischke and Jay Coffey enjoy the celebration.



Attendees enjoy the meal at Figlio.



Staff member Kelly Mayo and patron Silvio Dewolf welcomed attendees to the gathering.

Public safety

Palmer Police Logs

During the week of July 5-11, the Palmer Police Department responded to 81 building checks, 42 motor vehicle stops, five motor vehicle violations, 97 informational calls, 16 assists to other agencies, 28 medical, emergencies, 13 well being checks, 10 animal complaints, 25 calls for officers wanted, 13 alarms, six out of jurisdiction calls, 10 silent, accidental, abandoned or hung up 911 calls, seven investigations and four transports,

Sunday, July 5
6:47 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Palmer
10:16 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Central Street
11:30 a.m. Disturbance, Walnut Street
11:47 a.m. Civil Complaint, Pine Street
11:49 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Smith Street and Peterson Road
12:04 p.m. Found Property, Forest Lake, River Street
1:37 p.m. Weapons Violation, Woodland Heights
5:01 p.m. Property Return, Main Street
5:15 p.m. Animal Complaint, Bacon Road
6:32 p.m. Medical Emergency, South Street
6:33 p.m. Medical Lift Assist, Brittany Drive
7:01 p.m. Medical Emergency, Old Warren Road
7:55 p.m. Check Well Being, Springfield Street
8:56 p.m. Animal Complaint, Palmer Police Department, Main Street
9:40 p.m. Animal Complaint, Palmer Police Department, Main Street

Monday, July 6
12:54 a.m. Noise Complaint, Desimone Drive and Mount Dumplin Road
4:45 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-up/Panic, Third Street
9:23 a.m. Medical Emergency, Sykes Street
9:28 a.m. Medical Emergency, Allen Street
11:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street and Pine Street
12:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Repossession, South Main Street
1:09 p.m. Disturbance, Main Street
1:10 p.m. Property Return, Temple Street

1:22 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street
2:36 p.m. 911 Accidental, Wright Street
2:42 p.m. 911 Silent, Center Street
3:16 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Palmer Road
3:16 p.m. Medical Emergency, Ford Street
4:02 p.m. Check Well Being, Overlook Drive and Calkins Road
4:24 p.m. Medical Emergency, Shearer Street
5:12 p.m. Check Well Being, Memory Lane
5:12 p.m. Warrant Service, Main Street
5:53 p.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street
6:05 p.m. Animal Complaint, Mount Dumplin Road
6:58 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Kelley Street
7:16 p.m. Investigation, South Main Street
8:06 p.m. 911 Silent, Wright Street
9:54 p.m. Check Well Being, Pleasant Street
11:26 p.m. Cruiser Transport Courtesy, Main Street

Tuesday, July 7
12:59 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Park Street
2:51 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, North Main Street
4:09 a.m. Medical Emergency, Woodland Heights
10:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
10:19 a.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street
12:40 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Peterson Road
2:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
3:29 p.m. Medical Emergency, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
4:08 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Boston Road
4:56 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Baptist Hill Street
5:41 p.m. Medical Emergency, Mt. Dumplin Road
5:57 p.m. Check Well Being, Pleasant Street
6:14 p.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Foster Street
7:38 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive
8:16 p.m. Medical Emergency, North Main Street
8:40 p.m. Animal Complaint, Mt. Dumplin Road
9:04 p.m. Fire/Smoke, Church Street
11:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, Smith Street

Wednesday, July 8
1:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accidnet, Commercial Street
Arrest: Mya J. Adler, 20, Three Rivers
OUI Liquor or .08%; Leave Scene of Property Damage; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation
2:44 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Ware Street
2:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, State Street
Arrest: Bryan Kreon, 65, Stafford Springs Connecticut
OUI Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation
5:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Wilbraham Street
Arrest: Jason M. Wilkonson, 26, Chicopee
OUI Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation; Leave Scene of Property Damage
6:32 a.m. Found Property, Wilbraham Street
8:29 a.m. Cruiser Transport Arrest, Sykes Street
9:24 a.m. Medical Alarm, Beacon Drive
9:56 a.m. Cruiser Transport Arrest, Sykes Street
10:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Summit Drive
11:15 a.m. Cruiser Transport Arrest, Sykes Street
11:49 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Treem Anderson Street
12:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, High Street
12:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Prospect Street
12:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Fire, Mass Turnpike Interchange 63, Thorndike Street
1:18 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-Up/Panic, Depot Street
1:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Randall Street and North Main Street
1:34 p.m. Investigation, Wilbraham Street
1:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Shearer Street
1:51 p.m. Investigation, North Main Street
2:15 p.m. Theft, Flynt Street
2:18 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Michael Drive
2:47 p.m. Animal Complaint, Flynt Street
3:26 p.m. Medical Emergency, Winthrop Street
3:51 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Diane Street
4:09 p.m. Property Re-

turn, Pleasant Street
5:15 p.m. 911 Hang Up, Palmer
6:00 p.m. Investigation, Main Street
6:27 p.m. Property Return, Main Street
7:12 p.m. 911 Misuse, Wright Street
7:49 p.m. Animal Complaint, Park Street
8:02 p.m. Medical Alarm, River Street
8:13 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Shearer Street
9:46 p.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Shearer Street
10:42 p.m. Gathering, Wright Street
11:16 p.m. Check Well Being, Wright Street

Thursday, July 9
6:54 a.m. Investigation, Commercial Street
7:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, River Street and Stimson Street
10:05 a.m. Property Return, Baptist Hill Street
11:57 a.m. Found Property, Thorndike Street
1:01 p.m. Property Return, Main Street
2:27 p.m. Soliciting, Forest Street
2:36 p.m. Theft, Pine Street
2:45 p.m. Theft, South High Street
2:46 p.m. Drug/Narcotics Violation, Central Street
2:52 p.m. Soliciting, Forest Street
3:06 p.m. Medical Emergency, Wright Street
3:19 p.m. Soliciting, Belchertown Street
3:54 p.m. Medical Emergency, Sykes Street
6:02 p.m. Animal Complaint, Thorndike Street
10:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, State Street and Jim Ash Street
Arrest: Karen A. Spencer, 58, Ware
OUI Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Lights Violation Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation
11:26 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Wilbraham Street
11:50 p.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold-up/Panic, Belanger Street

Friday, July 10
2:24 a.m. Medical Emergency, Rockview Street
6:20 a.m. Medical Emergency, Fenton Street

7:41 a.m. Alarm Fire/Smoke/CO, Beacon Drive
8:32 a.m. Lost Property, Main Street
9:10 a.m. Alarm Burglar/Hold Up/Panic, Wright Street
9:20 a.m. Found Property, North Main Street
9:34 a.m. Fraud, State Street
9:37 a.m. Animal Complaint, Flynt Street
9:38 a.m. Property Return, Main Street
9:46 a.m. Lost Property, Main Street
9:59 a.m. Theft, South High Street
10:52 a.m. Medical Emergency, South Street
11:36 a.m. Investigation, Grove Street Suite 105
1:39 p.m. Soliciting, Main Street
1:52 p.m. Medical Emergency, Shearer Street
3:12 p.m. Investigation, Main Street
3:57 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Mason Street
4:19 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Crawford Street
4:20 p.m. Animal Complaint, River Street
5:44 p.m. Check Well Being, Beacon Drive
5:47 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Wright Street
5:55 p.m. 911 Silent, Main Street
6:40 p.m. Noise Complaint, Belchertown Street
6:41 p.m. Medical Emergency, Oak Street
7:04 p.m. Vandalism, Converse Street
8:07 p.m. Medical Emergency, Pinney Street
8:11 p.m. Check Well Being, Ware Street
8:37 p.m. Investigation, Wright Street
9:30 p.m. Medical Emergency, Old Thompson Street
9:46 p.m. 911 Hang Up, East Main Street
9:49 p.m. Warrant Service, Wright Street
Arrest: William P. Edwards, 43, Palmer
Warrant
10:03 p.m. Suspicious, Converse Street
11:18 p.m. Medical Emergency, Brittany Drive
11:20 p.m. Firwork Complaint, Dublin Street
11:49 p.m. Medical Emergency, Beacon Drive

Saturday, July 11
12:26 a.m. Disabled Mo-

tor Vehicle, Thorndike Street and Shearer Street
5:03 a.m. Disturbance, Randall Street
6:04 a.m. Unwanted Person, Wright Street
6:29 a.m. Hazard Wire/Pole/Tree, Beech Street
6:57 a.m. Animal Complaint, Monson
7:20 a.m. Check Well Being, Wright Street
8:26 a.m. Fire/Smoke, Prospect Street
8:53 a.m. Property Return, Pleasant Street
9:51 a.m. Unwanted Person, North Main Street
10:01 a.m. Theft, Main Street
10:35 a.m. Check Well Being, Boston Road
11:10 a.m. Animal Complaint, Main Street
2:19 p.m. Found Property, Main Street and South Main Street
2:30 p.m. Check Well Being, Flynt Street
Arrest: Leon R. Lambert, 83, Palmer
Warrant
2:50 p.m. Property Return, Main Street
3:45 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, West Ware Street
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Thorndike Street
5:11 p.m. Medical Emergency, Quaboag Valley Co-Op
6:16 p.m. 911 Abandoned, Park Street
6:45 p.m. Medical Emergency, Palmer Road
8:14 p.m. Check Well Being, Pleasant Street
8:19 p.m. Disturbance, Pine Street
8:34 p.m. Check Well Being, Springfield Street
8:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violations, Thorndike Street
Arrest: Jason Zito, 47, Cromwell Connecticut
OUI Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation
9:11 p.m. Firework Complaint, Longview Street
9:25 p.m. Firework Complaint, Flynt Street and Whalen Street
10:08 p.m. Unwanted Person, Main Street
10:25 p.m. Medical Emergency, Old Warren Road
10:38 p.m. Unwanted Person, Cumberland Farms, North Main Street

BOARD I from page 1

pounds once the steel has been removed and it's melted down.

"If anyone wants to see what it will be like after it's done, feel free," Murphy said. "Robbins and Bogan have been done. For two years I've been watching it, and I didn't do anything last year, and it's been phenomenal. No cracks in it."

After Murphy's comments, School Committee Chair Alison Morgan appeared before the board to clarify a request she had made to the board.

"I'm here in support of the Municipal Financial Sustainability Task Force, and wanted to clarify both my position and my request to the board, as I understand there may be some confusion about what was being asked," Morgan said.

After reading the draft proposal, Morgan asked Superintendent Paul Foster about whether the professional staff support structure could include a school-side financial resource.

"That conversation was exploratory in nature," Morgan said. "I was not requesting a vote, nor was I asking the School Committee's appointed representative to be changed."

Morgan stated that her request was that the School Department's Business Manager or Superintendent be added to the Professional Staff Support section in a non-voting capacity, in parallel with the town's Director of Finance.

Morgan also addressed whether the School Committee's appointed representative could fill this role, saying "the School Committee representative serves a governance function, just as the Select Board's representative does. The Board's own draft proposal already recognizes that a governance representative of a financial staff resource serves two distinct functions on the municipal side; I am simply asking for the same parallel structure on the school side."

Morgan said that this request is not a reflection on any individual, but to

ensure the right expertise in the right role. She highlighted that the School Department represents 42.1% of the town's total budget, and school finances operate under a separate legal framework from the General Municipal Budget.

"The Director of Finance is an invaluable resource for the municipal side, but would not be positioned to speak to the school-specific compliance requirements," Morgan said.

Part of the Task Force's scope is to identify Special Education as an uncontrollable cost to be reviewed, which will require understanding of circuit breaker reimbursements, Individualized Education Program obligations, and Department of Early and Secondary Education reporting.

"Getting that wrong is not just a budgeting error, it's a legal compliance issue," Morgan said. "Adding our Business Manager or Superintendent to the professional staff support structure simply ensures that the Task Force has the same depth of financial expertise on the school side that it already has on the municipal side."

Reed Coles approached the board to address a concern over security cameras at the House of Art.

"I'm sure many of you are aware that our beloved mascot, the dragon, was assaulted the other night by a vehicle," Coles said. "I heard that the perpetrator has been identified."

Coles said that, in searching for how this occurred, the Police Department discovered that the camera mounted on the House of Art is inoperable.

"Why doesn't that camera work?" Coles asked. "Now that we have this beautiful park across the street, we want to safeguard our belongings in town. If these cameras aren't working, I think we should get them up and working."

Roxanne Gunther spoke to the board about concerns over an agenda item that was passed without a vote, alleging that it was decided by the Chair and Town Administrator.

"I've made comments in

the past that the Chair cannot make decisions on their own," Gunther said.

Select Board Chair Pat Oney clarified this issue on the directive to department heads to attend Select Board meetings and provide updates.

"When I used the word 'policy,' I meant the Chair's policy, not the Board's policy," Oney said. "I'm certainly not trying to usurp the Board's policy decision-making."

Oney said the directive only relates to setting agenda items, which is within the Chair's purview, and that it would help focus the board on providing information to the public and combat misinformation that circulates. Board Member Keith Valley then asked that the matter be postponed for a further discussion on the matter, as he wanted to ensure the meetings would not infringe on day-to-day operations within the departments.

"I just feel that, with having that many items that could be discussed, it doesn't really give the public the opportunity to know what's going to be discussed during those Department Head meetings," Valley said.

Finally, Karen Davis announced upcoming community events, including a golf tournament on Aug. 22 to support Monson Together and the resources it provides, such as the Community Cupboard.

"In the past, we've raised \$20,000 to do Wreaths Across America," Davis said. "We've decided this year to do something else; we're actually going to purchase saplings and use those at the cemeteries for the veterans."

Davis said that this is both a better use of money, as the saplings can be replanted, as well as being more environmentally friendly than burning the wreaths at the end of the season. Oney asked if Davis had coordinated with Cemetery Foreman Mat Wawrzyk, and Davis said that she had.

"That's called Roots of Remembrance, and it's going to be the first weekend of December," Davis said. "It's really hard to sustain \$20,000 a year."

Obituary

Elizabeth Corish

1932-2026

MONSON – Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Rivard) Corish, 94, passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love of her family, on July 12, 2026. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, on June 21, 1932, Betty was the daughter of the late Victor and Margaret (Fahey) Rivard. She was a lifelong resident of Monson and was deeply devoted to her family, faith, and community.

Betty retired from the United States Postal Service in 1994 after 24 years of service. Prior to her postal career, she was employed by C.F. Church Company in Monson.

A faithful communicant of St. Patrick's Church, Betty will be remembered for her kindness, and unwavering devotion to her family.

She enjoyed knitting and found great joy in sharing her handmade creations with those she loved. Betty especially treasured her role as "Nan," caring for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The memories they shared with her will be cherished forever.

Betty was predeceased by her beloved husband, John R. Corish Jr. She leaves her sons, Michael P. Corish and his wife, Linda, and Richard J. Corish; her daughter, Suzanne M. Early; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two sisters. In addition to her husband, Betty was predeceased



by her parents and five siblings.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, 22 Green Street, Monson. Please gather directly at the church. Burial will follow at Bethany Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Betty's memory may be made to the St. Patrick's Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 473, Monson, MA 01057.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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Incumbent Sen. Ed Markey's supporters standing in unison holding signs.



Turley Photos ny Brendan Rooney
Moulton supporters standing in unison holding signs as cars drive by.

RACE I from page 1

to complete the agenda. We need Medicare for all, we need a green new deal, we need to make sure that we are fighting for every family who is out there who justifiably feels that they have been left behind.”

Moulton argued it’s time for a new generation of Democratic leadership.

“A lot of people in Massachusetts feel like they don’t have a voice in politics, and they’re struggling to afford basic needs, and we need a fighter,” Moulton said. “We need someone who’s going to change the playbook, invest in a new generation of the years, and start making Democrats win again.”

Rallies for both candidates took place prior to the debate.

Moulton first arrived and revealed that this is the 6th time he has been in Western Mass, reinforcing the congressman’s emphasis on the region’s importance throughout the commonwealth as the race continues to tighten.

“Being here in Western Mass is huge, it’s where my uncle [Andy] grew up, it’s

where my chief of staff went to school, my district director grew up here, so as you can see Western Mass has been always close to my heart,” Moulton said. He then pivoted to share how he feels that the region has been “left behind” by politicians in Washington and Boston alike.

“I’m here and have been because you deserve a senator who shows up, and I will continue to show up; that’s why I’m hosting a town hall/watch party in Chicopee tonight,” he said.

It was later revealed that the Moulton campaign took a stake in the city as the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, which hosted the congressman and his supporters to field additional questions and watch and react to the debate live, which was his 50th town hall across the state.

Markey showed up, citing the list of local endorsements he has garnered, by revealing a few such as Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, and countless others, citing, “I have consistently delivered for Western Massachusetts, and I’m looking forward to being able to tell that story,” Markey said.

Its Showtime

The highly-contested Democratic Primary debate featured a plethora of national issues, as well as a variety of local topics, such as the recent influx of local hospitals struggling, including Baystate, and funding for the West-East Rail project.

Markey kicked off the discussion by revealing that if he returns to the Senate, he would be the chairman of the subcommittee on health if the Democrats can win back the House and the Senate in the midterm elections. He then acknowledged that if that does come to term, then he would restore the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

“We’re going to restore the \$300 billion from the Affordable Care Act, which was cut, that went to people out here in western Massachusetts to ensure that there was solvency, and then we



Sen. Ed Markey



Rep. Seth Moulton

have to go beyond that,” Markey said. “We have to double funding for community health centers. We have to double the funding for NIH research on Alzheimer’s, Diabetes, Parkinson’s, Heart Disease, and all of those other diseases that run right through every single family. That has to be the goal. And in Western Massachusetts, I have stood up, and I’ve fought for this cause; I’ve met with all the hospital leaders out here, and we are going to deliver next January.”

He then added that if funding isn’t expanded and private equity isn’t weeded out, Western Mass hospitals will be in crisis.

“You have to make sure on a permanent basis these hospitals in Western Massachusetts are not weighted by private equity, rooted in emergency rooms and our eyes, otherwise our communities

are just shut down; that’s what happened in Easthampton,” Markey said.

Moulton shared that he isn’t against universal healthcare, but believes that people should keep the health plan they prefer and those that unions fought for in contract negotiations.

“Look, I stand with President [Obama] and say we should have Medicare for all, but you should also be able to keep the health care plan you prefer if that’s what you want,” Moulton said.

He then shared that, as an Iraq war veteran, he chose to use Veterans Affairs benefits for healthcare in part to ensure problems with that system are improved. Markey responded, saying VA benefits are a single-payer system and that many people would appreciate the chance to receive those benefits.

Moulton responded by declaring that universal healthcare, housing, and education should be human rights.

The conversation then pivoted to the ongoing development of the West-East Rail project, a proposed concept to bring high-speed rail service from Boston to Pittsfield and Springfield. Markey revealed that he and U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal, of Springfield, have secured \$157 million for the region to fund the long-overdue project.

“We were able to secure the funding for the project because it is absolutely essential that we connect the Western Mass economy to the rest of the commonwealth. I understand it’s been long overdue, and that’s why I worked so hard on the infrastructure bill of 2022 to ensure we get that funding,” Markey said. “However, we also acknowledge that we needed the funding for Springfield for this asthma crisis, which had happened, and now it is absolutely indispensable that that funding be made available, and it is there, and we are working to ensure that it gets built on in cooperation with Governor Healey as quickly as possible.”

Moulton argued that the amount Markey noted will only fund up to 10 miles of rails, which isn’t up to par.

“\$152 million will be for about 10 miles of rail; that’s not enough to get to Boston, and I want to add that no one is going to ride your train because it is too slow,” he said.

He then discussed the prospect of linking the state

together if the project was correctly funded, as he drew a comparison to the \$2 billion he delivered to the city of Lynn for infrastructure, and the possibility of what \$2 billion could do for the project instead of the \$152 million Markey and Neal raised.

“Imagine what \$2 billion would do for so many cities out here in Western Massachusetts,” Moulton said. “Imagine what that would do for job opportunities. Imagine what that would do to knit our state together. That’s why I think we need high-speed rail transportation, because not only do I think it would be transformative for the state, but I feel Americans in Massachusetts should be traveling the same speed as the rest of the world, and I’m going to continue fighting to get it done.”

Post-Debate Questions

After the debate, we then talked to both candidates, where we had an additional chance to inquire about the recent influx of Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) issues that stem from Holyoke, Chicopee, and Springfield dumping into the Connecticut River.

Markey told us he’s aware of the situation and shared a quick comment on how to solve the issue, “Well, I’m going to be senior on the infrastructure committee in the Senate and we need a trillion-dollar infrastructure bill beginning in January of this year coming up to make sure the funding is there for CSO making sure the funding is there for communities who absolutely cannot pay for it by themselves. They’re going to need help. They’re going to need federal help, and I will be there to make sure that help is present,” Markey said.

Moulton opened his thoughts by sharing, “It’s just absolutely appalling that this has happened,” he said. “And it’s also happened across the commonwealth, in Haverhill, which has dumped into the Merrimack River, which flows through my district; it has closed a lot of beaches right over the holiday weekend, and this is why we need Democrats to win so that we can deliver infrastructure back here. And when the senator says he supports all these great ideas, the reality is that those great ideas cannot come to fruition if Trump and the MAGA Republicans are still in charge.”

School Supply List

Suggested School Supply Donations:

- Box of Colored Pencils
- Plastic Pencil Box (Unlabeled)
- Erasers (Not Pencil Top)
- Thin Set of Crayola Markers
- Thick Set of Crayola Markers
- Scotch Tape
- Pack of Post-It Notes
- Box of 24 Crayons (No Larger)
- Colored Pencils
- Children’s Scissors
- Elmer’s Glue Sticks
- Expo Markers
- Single Subject Notebooks (Any Color)
- Erasers (Pencil Top Style)
- Lots of Pencils (Ideally Ticonderoga)
- Pencil Case/Box/Bag
- Cm/Inch Ruler
- Hand-Held Pencil Sharpener

Items For Sharing With The Class:

- Lysol/Clorox Wipes
- Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Expo Markers
- Paper Towels

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Monson Savings Bank
Moulton Insurance
Ware Town Hall
Westfield Bank

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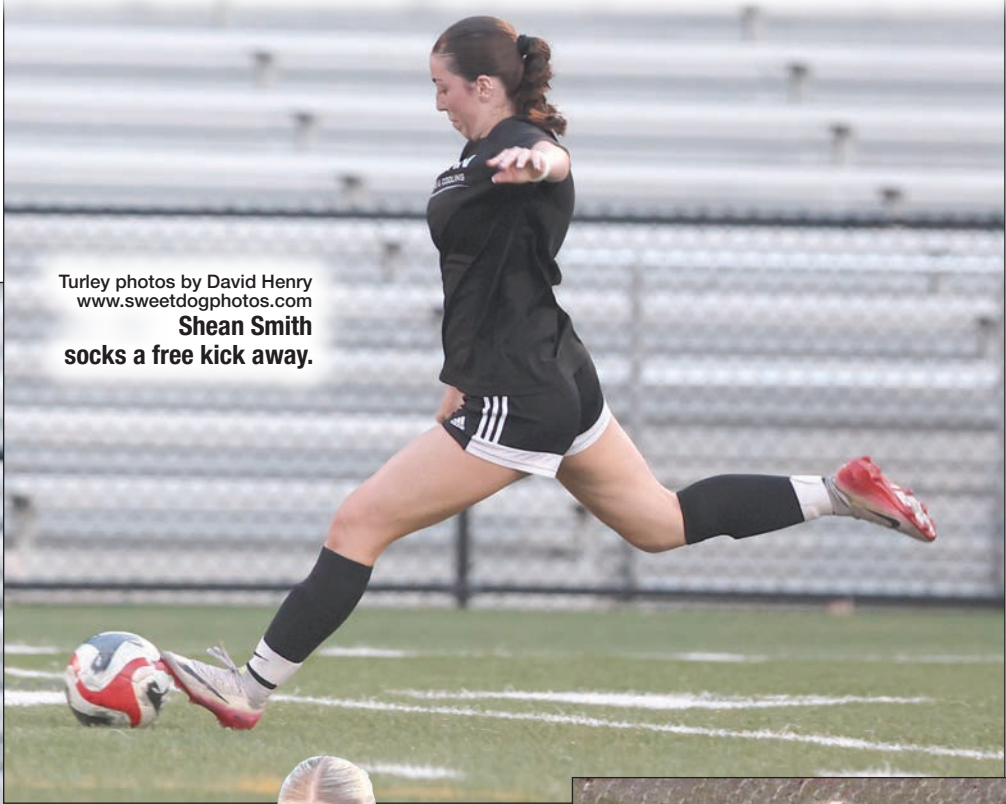
S O U T H HADLEY – Last Thursday evening, Here for Beer scored a big win over Monson Mustangs 5-0 in Women's summer soccer action. The two teams were in a

key matchup with both teams near the top of the Women's Division in the PVSSL. Here for Beer is now alone in second place at 6-1 while Monson is now 5-2 heading into the final weeks of the regular season.

Martine Worrall-Turgeon eyes a teammate up the field.



Gwen Duggan makes a pass toward midfield.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Shean Smith
socks a free kick away.



Lilly Jeager sends a pass away for Monson.



Ciara Monaghan tries to stop a ball.



Goalie Morgan Wesson punts the ball away.



Caitlin Bonavita makes a stop

BASEBALL

Monson Post 241 wins

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WESTFIELD – Despite wobbling defensively in the third and fourth innings, Monson Post 241 regrouped and fought its way to a gritty victory at Bullens Field in Westfield. With the Senior Legion contest knotted at 6-6 with two outs in the sixth inning, Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka delivered an RBI single. He also scored a run during that frame, as Post 241 celebrated an 8-6 win over Westfield Post 124 last Thursday night. “Most of the games haven’t gone our way this season,” said Kaczuwka, who’s the only player from Ware High School listed on the Monson Legion baseball roster. “We’re a big family and it feels very good to get back into the win column again.” Monson had a 4-8 overall record following last Thursday’s road contest. “We did struggle defensively early in the game, but we were able to score a few runs” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “This is a very big win for us

St. Joe’s grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons. The St. Joseph’s Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer. In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series. St. Joseph’s traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings. “We’ve faced Peoples in the championship series the past couple of years, and they’ve gotten the best of us,” said St. Joe’s shortstop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday’s game. “We beat them in a regular season game last year and they’re a great team. We’re also outstanding team this year and we’re trying to win the championship title.” St. Joe’s entered this week’s action with a 13-3 overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark. “We made a couple of mental errors in tonight’s



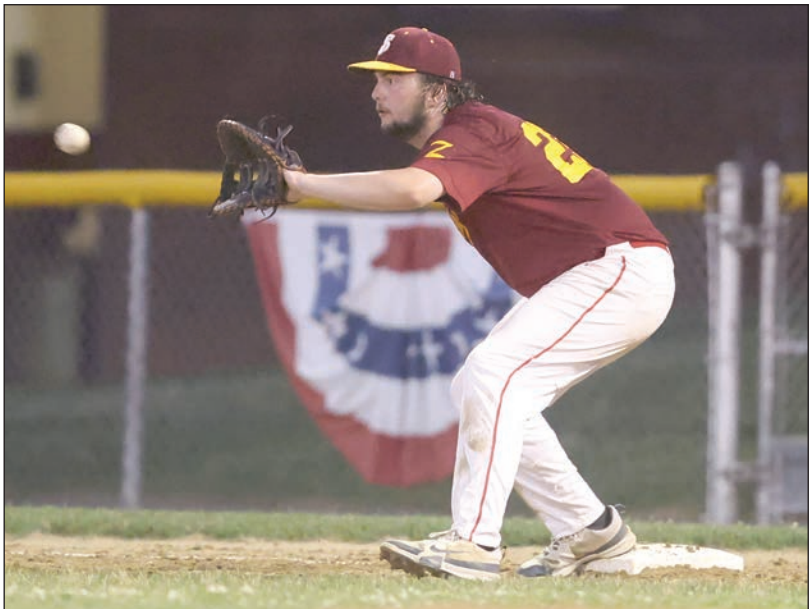
Jack Feltovic sends a pitch away.



Cam MacDonald sends a throw across the diamond.



James Flahive delivers a pitch for PeoplesBank.



Dillon Slattery makes the catch at first for an out.

Turley photos by David Henry

Vermont Green hands Pioneers defeat

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The members of the Western Mass. Pioneers gathered for a team photo before kicking off their regularseason finale against rival Vermont Green FC last Friday night.

Having been eliminated from the USL League 2 play-offs for the first time since 2018, the Pioneers were hoping to end Vermont Green’s long unbeaten streak.

The Pioneers overcame a 2-0 halftime deficit to tie the score early in the second half, but Vermont Green stretched their unbeaten streak to 37 matches following a 4-2 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium.

“Our main goal was to make the playoffs, which we’ve been able to do every year since 2018,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We battled back in the second half, but it just wasn’t enough.”

Vermont Green (13-0-1), who are the defending USL League 2 champions, haven’t suffered a loss since a 3-0 setback against Seacoast United in the 2024 Eastern Conference semifinals.

Alfred Baafi, who completed his first season playing for the Pioneers, was a member of the Seacoast United squad, which wound up winning the National championship title, two years ago.

“We really wanted to beat our rivals in tonight’s game,” said Baafi, who led the Pioneers with four assists. “It was a great feeling after my Seacoast team beat them in the playoffs two years ago. I really enjoyed playing for the Pioneers this summer. My dream is to play for a professional soccer team.”

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Santiago Blasco Gomez, who was the team captain.

“This is my third season playing for the Pioneers and I love this place,” Gomez said. “We’ve made the playoffs the past two years, which was an amazing experience. It’s dis-

appointing not making it this year. I’m hoping to play here again next year.”

Gomez, who’s from Alborache, Spain, was a graduate student on the Bryant University men’s soccer team a year ago.

The Pioneers, who finished their season with an 8-3-3 overall record, haven’t beaten their archrivals from Burlington since a 1-0 road win on June 17, 2023.

Vermont Green, who are hosting the first two rounds of the playoffs this weekend, now holds a 4-3-2 edge in the series against the Western Mass. squad.

Vermont Green took the lead when Samson Kpardeh sent a pass from the left side into the box where Jeremy Fancou fired a shot into the right corner past Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander during the 24th minute of the opening half.

Fancou scored his second goal seven minutes later, which was assisted by Ryan Zellefrow.

The score was 2-0 at intermission.

Nine minutes into the second half, the Pioneers sliced their deficit in half following a corner kick goal.

Ronan O’Brien booted the ball into the box from the left corner. After the ball was headed by Dylan Hunston, Riley Priddy put another header into the left corner past Vermont Green back-up goalie Seth Wilson.

During the 59th minute, Martin Echarren booted a free kick into the right corner tying the score at 2-2. It was also his team leading seventh goal of the season.

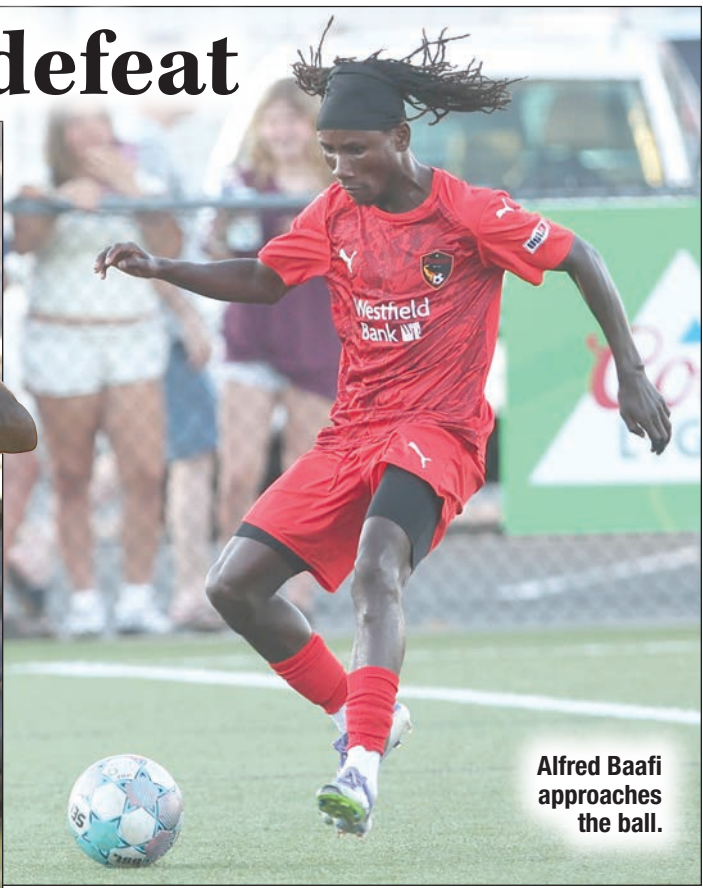
Vermont Green retook the lead following a goal by Kpardeh during the 74th minute.

Another goal by William Sawin during stoppage time sent the Vermont Green rowdy supporters into a frenzy.

The Pioneers will be looking to qualify for the league playoffs, and they’ll also be looking to celebrate a victory against the Vermont Green during the summer of 2027.



Santiago Blasco hustles with the ball.



Alfred Baafi approaches the ball.



Shun Murasawa sends a free kick away.



Martin Echarren goes for the goal.



Ronan O'Brien heads past midfield.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

T-Birds unveil 2026-2027 season schedule

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud American Hockey League affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, released their full schedule for their 2026-27 regular season on Thursday in conjunction with the AHL. The T-Birds will be celebrating their 10th playing season as an AHL member club, as well as their sixth playing season in affiliation with the Blues. Springfield has qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs in four of its past five seasons, coming off a run to within one win of the Eastern Conference Finals.

For the first time in seven seasons, the Thunderbirds will begin their regular season on the road, on Saturday, Oct. 3, in Wilkes-Barre against the Penguins in a rematch of the Atlantic Division Finals. The T-Birds will kick off their home ice season at the Thunderdome against the Laval Rocket on Saturday, Oct. 10 on Opening Night. Puck drop is set for 6:05 p.m.

Fans are advised that, for a second straight season, all Saturday games at the MassMutual Center will start at 6:05 p.m.

The Thunderbirds will face every Eastern Conference team at least twice during the 2026-27 regular season, except for the Cleveland Monsters and Toronto Marlies. Once again, the AHL season will consist of all 32 clubs playing 72 games (36 home, 36 away).

Springfield will play 52 games against Atlantic Division opponents, including 26 at the MassMutual Center. Their most frequent opponents are the Providence Bru-

ins, who will visit the Thunderdome seven times. The first meeting between the longtime foes will be on Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:05 p.m., with other home-ice meetings scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4 (7:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Dec. 16 (7:05 p.m.), Sunday, Dec. 27 (3:05 p.m.), Saturday, Jan. 2 (6:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Jan. 13 (7:05 p.m.), and Saturday, March 6 (6:05 p.m.).

The home-ice portion of the I-91 rivalry series against the Hartford Wolf Pack begins on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 3:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome. It marks the first of six meetings in Springfield, as the familiar rivals will also meet at the MassMutual Center on Tuesday, Nov. 10 (10:35 a.m.), Wednesday, Dec. 30 (7:05 p.m.), Saturday, Jan. 16 (6:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Feb. 17 (7:05 p.m.), and Saturday, April 3 (6:05 p.m.).

With the Atlantic Division trimmed to seven teams for the 2026-27 season, the Thunderbirds will see each of their division opponents from Pennsylvania six times in the regular season, including three head-to-head matchups each at the Thunderdome. The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins visit on Sunday, Jan. 3 (3:05 p.m.), as well as Friday, Jan. 29 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, Jan. 30 (6:05 p.m.).

The Lehigh Valley Phantoms make their first stop in Springfield for a two-game

weekend on Friday, Oct. 16 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, Oct. 17 (6:05 p.m.) before a return meeting on Saturday, Jan. 23 (6:05 p.m.).

The Hershey Bears make their trek from Chocolatetown to the Thunderdome on Friday, Nov. 6 (7:05 p.m.), Saturday,

Nov. 7 (6:05 p.m.), and Sunday, April 4 (3:05 p.m.).

The Thunderbirds will also play 18 games (9 home, 9 away) against North and Pacific Division opponents. The San Diego Gulls are the lone Western Conference team on the T-Birds’ schedule, as they visit Springfield for the first time ever on Saturday, Feb. 20 (6:05 p.m.) and Sunday, Feb. 21 (3:05 p.m.)



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Public notices

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 3, 2026 beginning at 6:00 P.M.** in the cafeteria of the Brimfield Elementary School, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA to hear a complaint filed by Jamin Benson of 73 Old Palmer Road regarding an ongoing dog nuisance, concerning six Great Pyrenees (four female, two male), two male mixed breeds, and one female chihuahua owned and/or kept at the property located at 76 Old Palmer Road, Brimfield, MA as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, Section 157 and Chapter 7 Sections 5.1-5.2 of the General Bylaws of the Town of Brimfield. If you have an interest in this hearing, you are requested to attend said hearing at the aforementioned date and time.

Martin J. Kelly,
Select Board Chair
Town of Brimfield
23 Main Street
Brimfield, MA 01010
07/16, 07/23/2026

TOWN OF PALMER PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DEWATERING CENTRIFUGE PROCUREMENT PALMER, MA P-0606-030

The Town of Palmer is requesting proposals from qualified equipment Vendors to furnish a dewatering centrifuge to be incorporated in the planned Palmer WPCF Dewatering Centrifuge and UV System Project. A Request for Proposals (RFP) describing the Vendor's scope of supply, qualifications, and other requirements will be available on or before Tuesday, July 7, 2026 on the Tighe & Bond website at http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php. Prospective bidders are required to register on the Tighe & Bond website to download documents.

Sealed proposals will be received at the Town Manager's Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, 01069 until **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2026**. Sealed Proposals must have outer envelope marked as **"BID ENCLOSED - Palmer WPCF - Dewatering Centrifuge Procurement"**. The Proposals will not be opened publicly.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is in accordance with by M.G.L. Chapter 30B §6 for the procurement of goods and services. Respondents shall submit separate proposals for the technical and cost elements as described in the RFP. Following the submittal of proposals, technical proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria stated in the RFP by the person(s) designated by the Chief Procurement Officer to perform such evaluation(s). Once proposals are evaluated, the evaluations shall be submitted to the Chief Procurement Officer, who shall open price proposals and award an Agreement, if at all, to the responsive and responsible Vendor whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous, taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria included in the RFP. The Town reserves the right to assign any agreement awarded under this RFP to a General Contractor who will be performing construction services for the Palmer WPCF Dewatering Centrifuge and UV System Project under Contract with the Town.

The successful Vendor shall furnish the equipment and ser-

vices necessary to meet the requirements of the RFP.

TOWN OF PALMER,
MASSACHUSETTS
07/16/2026

TOWN OF PALMER PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ULTRAVIOLET DISINFECTION SYSTEM PROCUREMENT PALMER, MA P-0084-042

The Town of Palmer is requesting proposals from qualified equipment Vendors to furnish an ultraviolet disinfection system for effluent disinfection to be incorporated in the planned Palmer WPCF Dewatering Centrifuge and UV System Project. A Request for Proposals (RFP) describing the Vendor's scope of supply, qualifications, and other requirements will be available on or before Tuesday, July 14, 2026 on the Tighe & Bond website at http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php. Prospective bidders are required to register on the Tighe & Bond website to download documents.

Proposals will be received at the Town Manager's Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, 01069 until **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2026**. Sealed Proposals must have outer envelope marked as **"Palmer WPCF - UV System Procurement"**. The Proposals will not be opened publicly.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is in accordance with by M.G.L. Chapter 30B §6 for the procurement of goods and services. Respondents shall submit separate proposals for the technical and cost elements as described in the RFP. Following the submittal of proposals, technical proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria stated in the RFP by the person(s) designated by the Chief Procurement Officer to perform such evaluation(s). Once proposals are evaluated, the evaluations shall be submitted to the Chief Procurement Officer, who shall open price proposals and award an Agreement, if at all, to the responsive and responsible Vendor whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous, taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria included in the RFP. The Town reserves the right to assign any agreement awarded under this RFP to a General Contractor who will be performing construction services for the Palmer WWTP Dewatering Centrifuge and UV System Project under Contract with the Town.

The successful Vendor shall furnish the equipment and services necessary to meet the requirements of the RFP.

TOWN OF PALMER,
MASSACHUSETTS
07/16/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robin L. Fell to World Savings Bank, FSB, dated May 25, 2007 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16736, Page 514, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., s/b/m Wells Fargo Bank SouthWest, N.A., f/k/a Wachovia Mortgage, FSB, f/k/a World Savings Bank, FSB to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, as owner Trustee on behalf of CSMC 2018-RPL8 Trust, recorded on December 20, 2018, in Book No. 22492, at

Page 463 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, as owner Trustee on behalf of CSMC 2018-RPL8 Trust to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-RPL1 Trust, recorded on June 30, 2025, in Book No. 25924, at Page 324 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-RPL1 Trust to Rocket Mortgage, LLC successor by merger to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded on March 13, 2026, in Book No. 26250, at Page 453 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on **August 3, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 2055 High Street a/k/a 2053 High Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated on the southerly side of High Street in Three Rivers, said Palmer, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a rod on the southerly side of said High Street, said rod being sixty-nine and 80/100 (69.80) feet easterly from a stone bound at the intersection of the southerly line of High Street with the easterly line of Kelly Street;

thence South 21° 47' E. one hundred sixty-four and 65/100 (164.65) feet along land now or formerly of Otis Company to a bolt in stone;

thence North 66° 30' E. one hundred twenty-one and 95/100 (121.95) feet along land now or formerly of said Otis Company and of the union Evangelical Church to a bolt in stone;

thence North 24° 30' W. eleven and 55/100 (11.55) feet along land of said Union Evangelical Church to a drill hole in bolder;

thence North 66° 30' E. sixty and 92/100 (60.92) feet along land of said Union Evangelical Church to a bolt in stone;

thence North 24° 30' W. one hundred fifty-one and 60/100 (151.60) feet along land now or formerly of one Geer through a stone bound distant eight (8) feet more or less from the Southerly side of High Street to said High Street;

thence South 66° 30' W. along the southerly line of said High Street one hundred seventy-five and 7/100 (175.07) feet to the place of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 10584, Page 588. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, New-

ton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC
S/B/M
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE
LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
26765
07/09, 07/16, 07/23/2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Estate of
John Frances Ferris
of: Palmer, MA
Date of Death:
March 02, 2026**

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 1st day of September, 2026

Joshua R. Ferris
749 River St.
Palmer, MA 01069
(413)455-9492
07/16, 07/23/2026

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, Section 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, July 23, 2026, at 7:05 p.m. in the Auditorium of Granite Valley School, 21 Thompson Street, Monson, MA 01057**. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the application of Vertex Tower Assets, LLC for relief from the requirements of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant proposes to construct

a 150-foot monopole wireless communications tower (154 feet to the top of the lightning rod) on property located on Woodhill Road, identified as Map 032, Parcel 010. The applicant seeks relief to allow construction that will encroach upon the required setback as outlined in §6.14.2.7 of the Zoning Bylaws and exceed the maximum height as outlined in §6.14.2.9 of the Wireless Communications Facilities Regulations. The parcel, consisting of approximately 94.5 acres, is owned by Springfield Sportsman's Club, Inc. and is located within the Rural Residential District. A copy of the application is on file with the Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Clerk's Office and is available for review during regular office hours. The application is also available on the Town's website.

David Beaudoine,
Zoning Board of Appeals,
Chairperson

07/09, 07/16/2026

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PARADE | from page 1

the parade, but so much was going on that they didn't get to see what they wanted to see," O'Connor said, "so we had another community event so they could get together again and watch it as a group."

The watch party was attended by around 50 people. O'Connor shared that the library received requests from the public for more photos from the event.

"We had a photo exhibit originally of about 22 enlargements, and we put all 94 parade photos out so a lot more people could find themselves in pictures from that day," O'Connor said.

"We had a few people who said 'that's me' and took a picture of them posing with their former self,"

O'Connor said.

O'Connor described one person in particular who had been part of the giant pumpkin the parade, which was an extremely memorable part of the parade, and was actually what inspired O'Connor to seek out the video.

"I am the librarian here that works with the Historical Commission, they meet in the library," O'Connor said. "This video came to my attention because someone asked about the pumpkin float, said 'my grandfather, my uncle was on that float,' so I looked for it and found that video, and I knew people would love to watch it."

O'Connor said that the individual who was part of the pumpkin told the story of how he and his crew tied 17,000 bundles of orange paper to chicken wire shaped like a



A patron visits the display of pictures of the 200th parade.

pumpkin to create the now iconic float.

Another surprise O'Connor described was a newspaper insert about the town's bicentennial celebration that was discovered by an individual in their attic North Carolina, and then mailed to Town Hall right in time for the event.

"It sparked a lot of great conversations, and people have brought in more artifacts from the bicentennial," O'Connor said.

The event was also an opportunity for the library to promote its adult Summer Reading Program, and O'Connor said that many people were able to sign up for the program. Attendees of the event also had the opportunity to sign the 250th Commemorative Scroll, which will be set aside until the nation's 300th anniversary in 2076.

"The scroll is the historic document that Palmer townspeople supported indepen-

dence and signed it on June 17 at Town Meeting in 1776," O'Connor said. "We have the scroll now, so people can feel comfortable supporting the town's independence from Great Britain."

DVD copies of the 1976 parade have been made available to borrow from the library. "Definitely some of our audience will not go online and want to borrow the DVD, so we have two copies that can circulate," O'Connor said.



Fran Nowak of the Palmer Historical Commission was encouraging visitors to sign the 250th commemorative scroll.

The video is also available online, and will be hosted at PalmerLibrary.org/PalmerVoices. The June 20 celebration of the nation's 250th Semiquincentennial Anniversary was also recorded, and that can be accessed online or on DVD from the library.

MARKET | from page 1

Baldyga was looking forward to good weather and a solid turn-out.

"Sometimes, in the past, it's been way too hot," Baldyga said. "Tonight, with the weather, it's not going to be 90°, so hopefully people will come out as the weather cools off at night."

"We always have a lower turnout in July," Seaver admitted. "It's hot, there are vacations and everything, and I think because it was the week right after the Fourth of July, we didn't have as good a turnout as we've had in the past, but we had a decent turnout, and people seemed to really be enjoying themselves."

The event offers the community an opportunity to celebrate with their neighbors and loved ones free of charge, and Baldyga said that the response has "always been positive."

"The community loves it," Baldyga said. "They get to have a night where they can take their children out, and even young couples can sit and listen to the music. It's a



J. Stolar Insurance Agency participate in the event.

great response from the community."

Seaver described the crafters as offering "a hodgepodge of everything," between the various different partner companies that attended. Among a dozen or so other businesses, Seaver mentioned J. Stolar Insurance Agency had a cornhole game, and Creative Dance sold candles and provided information about their studio.

"We're definitely celebrating the country's birthday this year," Baldyga said. "We



A pottery making demonstration was performed for the attendees.



Music was played for the attendees.

passed out flags to all the children, and the gazebo is decorated in red white and blue."

Though businesses pay a fee to participate, the Chamber seeks no profit from this event, with costs going directly to paying for port-a-potties



Three River Chamber members host the event.

and other amenities.

"The whole goal of our Chamber is to be there for the community and to have events like this that are children-friendly, family-friendly, for them to do," Baldyga said. "That's how it benefits us, just by being out there with the community."

Seaver thanked the crew that helped set up and break down the event, saying "I really appreciate that, and so does everyone in the Chamber. Without volunteers, we couldn't get done what we do."

Another artisan market

will be held on Aug. 14, and then a larger celebration will be held at Pulaski Park in October, which promises to include different musicians and a performance by a local dance school.

If you're interested in supporting the Chamber's artisan markets, all you have to do is "show up and enjoy the event," Seaver said. If you'd like to volunteer, you can send an email to Seaver at NaturalCAIR@GMail.com, or send a message to the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce page on Facebook.



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